

# The Prairie Light Review

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Volume 37 | Number 2

Article 56

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Spring 5-1-2015

## Self Portrait

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*College of DuPage*

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### Recommended Citation

Kocek, Colette (2015) "Self Portrait," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 37: No. 2, Article 56.

Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol37/iss2/56>

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*sleepover stories: serena at josie's*

Morning comes in haunting stealth  
Prying through windows  
Intruding to paint sunshine on sheets

Josie's somber smoked eyes  
Hadn't smiled for ages  
The fresh silence flourished  
Beautiful, belated

If the oxygen had been obliterated  
Constricted their airways  
Those words would've stayed stone  
Stuck in their souls and not splattered  
On the walls

Serena didn't think wolves could howl so loud  
Or holler like chains wrapped their teeth  
Josie's parents were monsters outside closets  
Playing with claws, without rules  
And Josie's tears screamed along

MELISSA WOHLFORD